

REMARKS

This is a response to the Final Office Action mailed October 21, 2003. Reconsideration and continued examination in light of the above amendments and following remarks is courteously requested. The Examiner is additionally requested to consider the information disclosure statement submitted by Applicant on December 18, 2003.

The Commissioner is hereby petitioned to grant a one month extension of time to the shortened period for response set forth in the Final Office Action. After entry of the one month extension of time, the period for response is extended to February 21, 2004. Should this Response require any additional fee or extension of time, please consider this as a petition for such extension and as authorization to debit Deposit Account No. 50-2091 for any fees as may be required to consider this Response and/or to prevent abandonment of this application.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Advisory Action mailed on December 17, 2003 in response to Applicant's Request for Reconsideration filed on December 1, 2003. Applicant has attempted to address the issues set forth in the Advisory Action as well as in the Final Office Action by this Response.

By this Response, Applicant has cancelled claims 2-3 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer, and has amended claims 1, 4, 7 and 15. Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 9-11, 13-16 and 18-22 remain pending in the application, with claims 1, 7 and 15 being independent claims. The Office Action rejected all of the claims under Section 103, citing various combinations of U.S. Patent No. 6,053,736 ("Huffman"), U.S. Patent No. 6,170,014B1 ("Darago"), and US Patent No. 6,478,581 ("Lin"). The various rejections are addressed herein.

Applicant has amended the independent claims to more clearly describe the user interface/browser aspects of the client computer, and has amended each of the independent claims to more fully describe user authentication. Applicant has also made numerous stylistic changes to the claims (e.g. changing "such that" to "wherein" in claim 1, modifying the language of various claim elements to conform to the newly-added language, etc.). These changes are purely formalistic in nature and are not made for purposes related to patentability. Applicant therefore does not wish to surrender any range of equivalents to which it would otherwise be entitled.

As stated in Applicant's prior response, the various references cited in the first and final Office Actions relate to simulating the entire aircraft experience rather than to simulating aircraft code (e.g. particular releases of FMS software, navigation databases, etc.). Accordingly, the cited references do not disclose the presently-claimed invention, even when the references are taken in combination.

The primary reference cited in the Office Actions, Huffman, describes a single platform system for simulating an AWACS flight (col. 1, lines 15-18). As previously stated by Applicant, this is a conventional-type aircraft simulation platform as discussed on page 2, lines 1-10 of the Specification as originally filed. While Applicant previously asserted that the Huffman system does not interact with a digital network in any way, the Advisory Action points out that Huffman does disclose (at col. 4, lines 49-55) an interface (element 16e) that allows the console (element 11) to interface with an external flight simulator via a local area network. While Applicant does not dispute this disclosure, the fact that Huffman has an interface to a LAN in no way anticipates the "gateway" with each of the limitations of applicant's claims. Indeed, the interface 16e cited in the Advisory Action clearly does not establish a connection between the elements cited in the Office Actions as disclosing the client portion (consoles 11) and the server portion (host 16) of Applicant's claims, but rather establishes a connection between host 16 and another remote server. Accordingly, this "interface" does not have each and every limitation recited for the "gateway" element of claims 1 and 15. Further, Applicant has amended each of the independent claims to more clearly recited the "authentication" aspect of the present invention; this aspect of the gateway is clearly not disclosed anywhere in Huffman, as acknowledged in the Advisory Action.

With regard to the "code derived from an actual aircraft component" aspect of Applicant's claims, the Final Office Action and Advisory Action cite the Lin reference as providing this element. As previously noted by Applicant, the Lin system provides a cabling interface for connecting an actual aircraft component to a simulator. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 to clarify that the code is executed on a simulator card, and not on an actual component; similar language is present in claim 15. As recited by Applicant's claims, then, Lin is distinguishable in that it does not disclose a simulator card that executes code that is based upon executable code used in an actual aircraft component, but rather discloses the use of the actual component itself. This distinction is important because, in contrast to the presently

claimed systems and methods, Lin requires that the actual device (which is typically very expensive) be purchased, wired into the simulator, and then updated with software releases (also potentially very expensive) for each simulation run.

For these reasons, even the cited combinations of Huffman and Lin fail to describe the cited elements of Applicant's claims. In particular, neither reference discloses a gateway between a client portion and a server portion of a flight simulation program, and neither discloses a server portion comprising executable code that is based upon executable code used in an actual aircraft component. Similarly, none of the references of record disclose the browser element now recited in each of the independent claims. Reconsideration of the prior art rejections is therefore respectfully requested.

With regard to the Durago reference, Applicant continues to assert that this reference is non-analogous to the field of flight simulators, and is therefore not properly combined with the remaining references. While the Advisory Action does point to a single mention of flight simulators in the "Background of the Invention" section of the Durago reference, it is clear that even this reference is limited in that it merely states that the "physical motions performed with a flight simulator" may be protected with intellectual property laws. This peripheral reference would not be sufficient to cause one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teachings of Durago into the teachings of Huffman and/or Lin.

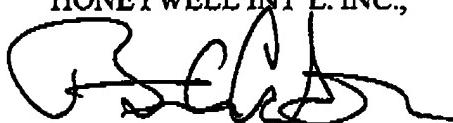
Although Applicant continues to believe that no adequate bases for the various combinations of Huffman, Lin and Durago have been provided, further elaboration of these arguments is believed to be moot at this point in view of the amendments to the claims and the arguments set forth above. Applicant expressly reserves the right, however, to question the bases for the various combinations in a subsequent Response or upon Appeal.

Conclusion

Even if the cited references were combined, they would still fail to anticipate each and every element of Applicant's claims, particularly a gateway to a digital network and server code based upon code used in an actual aircraft component. Further, no references even remotely disclose the browser aspects now recited in claims 1 and 7. Based on the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action and allowance of the present Application.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of assignee
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